



The  
Jewish

# Gaily Forward

Elul + Tishrei + Cheshvan 5775 ■ September + October 2015

## Celebrate Simchat Torah at Sha'ar Zahav Sunday, October 4, 7:00 pm

**A** weekend night with good friends, a great band, and a lot of high-energy dancing—that's what Simchat Torah is all about.

Coming after the High Holy Days, this night celebrates the Torah as we finish reading the last of the Five Books and start all over again with "In the Beginning." If you've always wanted to see the inside of the Torah scroll up close, hold the Torah or even dance with the scrolls, this is your chance.

This is no sit-down service. Expect to be on your feet or wheels, dancing and swaying along to our great klezmer band. Can't dance? Once again, Bruce Bierman will be on hand to get you started. Want to sing along but don't know the words? No worries! Cantor Sharon Bernstein will teach you the tunes and you can la-la-la along.

Best of all, Simchat Torah is for everyone. Single? Join a group dance and find someone new. Have kids? Let them run and jump. A quiet type? Watch the action and clap to the music.

And you never know. You just may also find a new spiritual energy flowing in this sacred space as you literally hold the Torah close.

## What is Selichot? excerpted from ReformJudaism.org

**F**or many Jews, the High Holy Days season begins with Rosh Hashanah and the start of the new month of Tishrei. Jewish tradition, however, teaches that the preceding month of Elul is a time of soul-searching and reflection to prepare oneself for the magnitude of the Days of Awe. It is during this time that we observe Selichot (also spelled s'lichot).

In the broadest definition, selichot are penitential prayers said before and during the High Holy Days and other fast days throughout the year. But the term first appears as a reference to the biblical verses that were added to the Yom Kippur liturgy. Eventually, the holiday prayers were combined with general prayers of repentance. The prayer book of *Rav Amram Gaon*, from the 9th century, for example, includes a collection of these poetic writings and meditations. While these prayers were initially only recited during the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the custom developed to use them in the days beforehand as well.

In Hebrew, selichot translates to "forgiveness," and indeed there is an emphasis in these prayers on the merciful attributes with which God is said to govern the world. In many ways, the prayers which make up the Selichot service mirror what we find on the Day of Atonement which follows soon after. The language of these qualities should sound familiar to anyone who has recited the liturgy throughout Yom Kippur when we speak about God's ability to forgive "transgression, iniquity, and sin." We begin and end the season of repentance with the same words, calling out to the compassionate God who we hope will accept our prayers. The holiday itself occurs early in the month of Elul in Sephardic tradition, but on the Saturday evening just before Rosh Hashanah in Ashkenazi communities. Either way, prayers are read and meditations considered as individuals are encouraged to reflect on the past year and the changes they wish to make in the upcoming one.

*At Sha'ar Zahav, we combine song, poetry, prayer and meditation to create a meaningful evening of reflection and preparation. Many members come to the service simply to hear the High Holy Day melodies for the first time this year, or to participate in the ritual of changing the Torah covers to special white ones worn only during the High Holy Days. Come to this special service on Saturday, September 5, starting at 9:00 pm.*



# A Picture of You



**THANK YOU** so much for your warm welcome to the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav community this summer. I am absolutely thrilled to serve as your interim rabbi for the year. During my first weeks with CSZ, I have been meeting with staff and lay leaders to better understand how the synagogue operates as an organization; I've been participating in services, the Advance, and other programs to learn about the culture; and I've been meeting with many of you to learn about. . .you!

I am confident we will create inspiring programming and meaningful services together this year. We will become more efficient as an organization. We will chart our path for the future. But ultimately, synagogues are about people. It is "who we are" to each other, rather than "what we do" as an institution. And this synagogue, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, is about . . . you!

As some of you have seen, I have been slowly filling the many shelves in my office with books and *tshatshkes* (collectibles of sentimental value). The vast majority of these were in storage for the past two years and it has been fun to rediscover some great treasures. Included in this collection

are many books on mussar, spiritual journeys, synagogue transformation and organizational development. And yet, something is still missing from my office . . . a picture of you!

I love that my office faces Dolores Street and I'm able to see the hustle and bustle of the city, but I would really like you, through your pictures, to join me each day as I step into the synagogue. For me, it's a powerful reminder that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is about each of us as individuals, not the programs and activities that we sponsor. Though you are certainly welcome to drop off the photo or even email a .jpg, I would much prefer you make an appointment to spend some time with me in person, one-on-one, so we can get to know each other in a more meaningful way.

I recognize some of you may be reticent to build a relationship with me given my interim term status. I absolutely understand and respect this view. Though I hope to remain in the Bay Area after my experience with CSZ, interim rabbis are encouraged to practice a personal *tzim tzum* (contraction) toward the end of their term to make space for the new "settled" rabbi. At the same time, I think it is important for interim rabbis to model what a healthy congregant-rabbi relationship can look like, and thus my desire to get to know you.

I also encourage you to use these High Holy days to reach out to others in the congregation. Perhaps it's the new person you haven't yet met. Or the person you've known for years and haven't spoken with in a while. Whatever you choose to do, please recognize the synagogue is only as strong as the relationships we have with each other.

I look forward to getting to know each of you this year and I hope and pray that we may all have a new year of new relationships, strengthened friendships and a community in which everyone feels connected, valued and loved.

L'Shanah Tovah,  
Rabbi Ted Riter

P.S. The best way to reach me is at the synagogue – (415) 861-6932, by email ([rabbi@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rabbi@shaarzahav.org)) or to "friend" me on Facebook. If you have an urgent need to get in touch, you are welcome to call or text me on my cell phone: (805) 558-5964.

## Bikkur Cholim

The mitzvah of bikkur cholim (visiting the sick) can be as simple as just a phone call, helping with an errand, making a home visit, offering a ride or delivering a meal (or a challah on Friday). In order to learn when an opportunity to help a fellow Sha'ar Zahav member arises, everyone is invited to sign up with "Lotsa Helping Hands," by going to [www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/721551](http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/721551).

After you sign up, you can be informed when a need arises and be able to offer help. If you have a need yourself, please contact us at [bikkurcholim@shaarzahav.org](mailto:bikkurcholim@shaarzahav.org) or call the synagogue office. You can also use this address for any questions related to bikkur cholim.

## Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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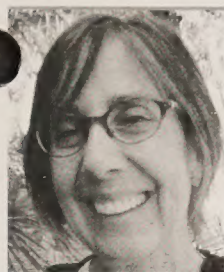
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**VICE PRESIDENTS** Michael Chertok  
Nancy Levin  
Mark Pressler  
**RECORDER** Marc Lipschutz  
**TREASURER** Tiela Chalmers

## Va'ad Members

Larry Best, Alice Harron, Tom Lakritz, Eve Michael Rice, Martin Tannenbaum, Larry W. Andy Williamson, Judith Wolfe, James Carlson (Immediate Past President)



# Forgiveness



**PRESIDENTS OF** Sha'ar Zahav have been asking for forgiveness before the start of Kol Nidre services for more than a decade. This example of humility is consistent with the tradition of asking our fellow human beings for forgiveness, before we pray our communal confessions.

We are often not even fully aware of the slights and small pains we have caused family, friends and fellow congregants. I believe it is important for us as a community to engage in asking each other for forgiveness, especially after a year with different perspectives on how we should proceed as a congregation.

As your president I see the significant dedication of so many members to make this a holy community (as the words above the entrance to our front door state). But what does it really mean to be a holy community? To me, it represents a caring community in which we see the Divine spark in every member. A community whose members respect the myriad ways in which we travel the road of life together.

To strengthen our bonds during this year of transition, I will be encouraging us to gather together in small groups in our homes

to share how we want to reinforce the mission of Sha'ar Zahav. Torah tells us that the Jewish people will be a "light unto the nations." Each of us has the responsibility to take on this work.

As we respect and care for our neighborhood, its inhabitants, and the less fortunate of our cities, we are engaging in holy work. Tikkun olam is not just something we teach our children, but is an opportunity for all of us to demonstrate what a holy community is in the 21st century. I was so proud of our members who came to the Jewish Family & Children's Services-sponsored workday at the AIDS Memorial Grove. It coincided with our annual leadership Advance and we took Sunday morning to dirty our hands with manual labor to help beautify this holy place of memory.

While we are looking inward during this year of transition, learning how to share our strengths and mission with the "unsynagogued," we also continue to have responsibilities and opportunities for doing good. Our growth as a holy community will happen as we are recognized as a spiritual community with caring members committed to our Jewish values.

May each of us be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a year of good health and happiness.

## Welcome Our New Administrator



I am thrilled to announce that we have made some changes in the office. We have brought Marilyn Wacks on board as our Administrator. Marilyn will be working part time. She is working with Carrie Kwong. Carrie will continue to work full time and has been promoted to office and facilities

manager. Together these two women will continue to bring us an amazing level of support.

Marilyn was most recently the project manager in the San Francisco office of InterfaithFamily. She has many years of experience working with non-profit organizations. Marilyn was also the special assistant for the late Congressman Tom Lantos.

Marilyn has tremendous experience working with websites and other social media. She is already helping us move into the 21st century. Please stop by the office or give her call to say hello. You will definitely get a chance to meet her during High Holy Days.

We are so honored to have an amazing staff. Welcome Marilyn!

### Task Force Leaders

**MEMBERSHIP** Alice Harron and Nancy Levin  
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**CONNECTIONS** Lisa Katz and Laurie Trupin  
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**ADVERTISERS:** contact Marilyn Wacks at [marilyn@shaarzahav.org](mailto:marilyn@shaarzahav.org) or (415) 861-6932. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav reserves the right to reject any ad.



# Endowment Triple Play

BY IRENE OGUS

It's baseball season, so indulge me!

If you're not sure what an Endowment Fund is, you just need to know that "to endow" is to provide for the future, to ensure that an institution, a program, a staff position is financially supported into perpetuity.

Our congregation's Endowment Fund has been blessed with bequests from deceased members in the past and promises of bequests (legacy commitments) from approximately 25% of our membership. Those names are listed below. This fund was established to ensure that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will continue to grow and thrive well into the future. For example, we used money from the fund to purchase our building on Dolores Street – certainly a significant investment in our future. The Endowment Fund's board consists of the immediate five past presidents and they decide on the appropriate use as long as it fits into the bylaws of the fund.

Sha'ar Zahav has another endowment fund as well. Last year, we were doubly blessed by a substantial gift made by our dear member Walt Leiss to establish the Walter Leiss High Holiday Oneg Endowment Fund. This fund is designed to provide well into the future for the beautiful onegs we all enjoy at Rosh Hashanah and the Yom Kippur break-fast. Walter encourages all our members to donate to this fund. Several members and non-members have done so already.

We are now considering establishing a third endowment fund: the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Building Reserve Endowment Fund. Why? Because, first of all, the cost of running our building (including staff to maintain it) is currently

approximately \$11,000 per month. Secondly, there is about \$350,000 of deferred maintenance – painting, both exterior and interior, floor refinishing, carpet replacement, pew repairs and kitchen renovation – which we must take care of within the next three to five years. This work must be done not only for our safety and pleasure, but also for that of our tenants to whom we owe a responsibility. The First Mennonite Church of San Francisco has been a wonderful tenant for the past 12 years and is about to agree to a new five-year lease. They deserve to know that we have reserve funds to protect and maintain our building.

At our recent Annual Meeting, I explained all of this and announced the proposal to establish this fund to our Va'ad. The very next day, an anonymous member offered a challenge donation of \$5,000 to establish the fund. Two Va'ad members have since stepped up to match it. If we could raise \$70,000 during each of the next five years, we will achieve our goal and be able to take care of the repairs. Do you love our building enough to donate to its care and preservation? Care to join the challenge?

As a congregation we are entering such an exciting time with new rabbinic leadership, new administrative staff, a strong va'ad and a solid budget. Let's together take care of the future of our beloved congregation and building by supporting the three Endowment Funds – the Endowment Fund, the Walt Leiss High Holiday Oneg Fund and, now, the Building Reserve Fund – true triple play.

If you would like a Legacy commitment form, please email me at [irene.ogus@gmail.com](mailto:irene.ogus@gmail.com). You can send donations for the funds directly to the Sha'ar Zahav office.

## Our Legacy Community

The following people have all submitted Letters of Intent to leave a bequest to CSZ. Many thanks, once again, to you all.

Your name could be on this list too! Please email me at [irene.ogus@gmail.com](mailto:irene.ogus@gmail.com) for more information.

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Rabbi Camille Angel  
Marianne Balin  
Jesse (Shai) Begley

Dan Bellm & Rabbi Yoel Kahn  
Wayne Bender  
Ray Bernstein  
Francisco Caravayo  
& Jonathan Strober  
James Carlson  
Tiela Chalmers  
Michael Chertok  
Daniel Chesir  
Ellie Cohen & Michal Goralsky  
Paul Cohen  
Aaron Cooper & Eric Keitel  
Rob Daroff  
Steve Elman

Jonathan Funk  
David Gellman  
Avraham Giannini  
Allan Gold  
Joan Goldman  
Alan Gordon  
Sarita Groisser  
Marjorie Hilsenrad  
Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum  
Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden  
Batya Kalis z"l  
Elizabeth M. Katz & Lee Ann Thompson  
Rose Katz  
Tom Lakritz

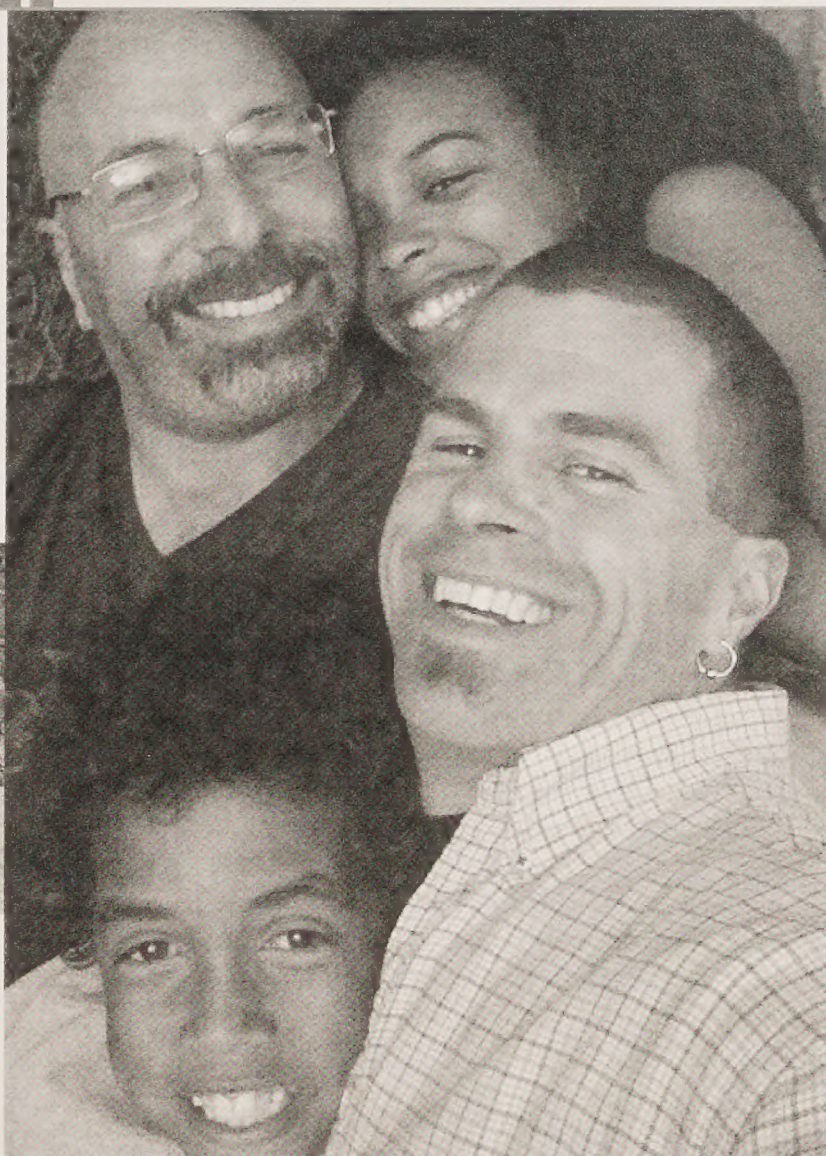
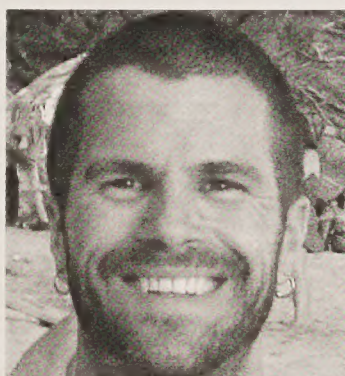


# Claiming Judaism

BY CRAIG PERSIKO

**M**y name is Craig Persiko, and I've been coming to Sha'ar Zahav since I moved to San Francisco in 1996. My husband Geoff and I met in Chicago in 1995, and he spoke glowingly about CSZ from his year living here before we met. When we moved here together when I was 22, we started going to Friday night services right away. I had been raised nominally Christian, but had identified as an atheist for many years. Through CSZ I came to experience Judaism as vibrant, welcoming of questions, intellectually stimulating, healthy and supportive in ways that Christianity hadn't been for me.

After living here together and attending services regularly for four years, we got married in the Jewish tradition, although I hadn't yet converted. Geoff asked me to consider converting to Judaism, but not as a pre-condition to marriage. So I took some classes and read some books under the mentorship of Paul Cohen. I valued my connection to Judaism and CSZ, but was unsure if I wanted to take the step to officially become Jewish. Then we adopted our first child, Serafina, when she was 6 weeks old. We agreed to raise our children Jewish, and I realized it would be hypocritical of me to tell my children that I wanted them to attend religious school and have b'nei mitzvot, if I had not officially claimed Judaism myself. So when it came time for Serafina to go to the mikvah to become officially Jewish (since her birth mother wasn't Jewish), I joined her in the conversion. We went into the mikvah together in 2004, an event which Serafina insists that she remembers (she was 1).



Now Serafina is 12, and we're planning her bat mitzvah for next May 28. She and her brother Tobias feel at home at CSZ, and also love to celebrate Shabbat at home, when we often invite guests to join us for challah and simple prayers, plus a good meal. CSZ was the first place I ever met gay parents. Here our children feel connected through Judaism with other families like ours, as part of a small yet diverse community.

Walter Leiss  
Shoshana Levenberg  
Nancy Levin  
Deborah Levy  
Ron Lezell  
Jeffrey Lilly  
Patricia Lin  
Marc Lipschutz  
Gerry Llamado  
Laura Lowe  
Susan Lubeck & Richard Weiner  
Kileen Lynette  
Mark Mackler  
Paul Margolis

Steve Mazer  
Richard Meyerson  
Jerry Nodiff  
Irene Ogus  
Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz  
Ora Prochovnik & Rena Frantz  
Andrew Ramer  
Mike Rankin, M.D.  
Gerald Rosenstein  
Beth Ross & Laura Trupin  
Sharyn Saslafsky  
Karen Schiller  
Andrew Schwartz  
Arthur Slepian

William "Bill" Smith  
Charles Spiegel  
Howard Steiermann  
Rob Tat  
Susan Tubbesing  
Deborah Udin  
Dana Vinicoff  
Larry Wexler  
Gary Winter  
Dennis R. Ybarra  
Frank Yellin & Mark Showalter  
Jonathan Zimman  
Mike Zimmerman  
Ami Zusman



# Interview with a Va'ad Member: Tom Lakritz

BY MARK MACKLER



**You're originally from the Central Valley. What brought you to San Francisco?**

It was September of 1992. I had graduated from City University of New York School of Law, and I was ready to return to California for my new job with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. I spent several years with the court, and then began my career with the San Francisco City Attorney's Office.

**And what brought you to CSZ?**

From 1992 to 2005, I attended CSZ on a sporadic basis. I can't recall if any member introduced me to the congregation. I finally became a member in 2005. When you get right down to it, as a kid and throughout college and law school I felt that being gay and Jewish were at odds with each other. Finally, that feeling dissipated.

**And what about your va'ad involvement?**

I served one term which ended in 2013. I returned this year after James Carlson saw me walking down the street, bounded

out of Zuni Café, and asked me to run for another term.

**Do you have skills as an attorney that have served you as a va'ad member?**

As a lawyer, and particularly as a government lawyer, I try to look at issues from multiple perspectives before I make a decision.

**Most folks agree that CSZ is in the midst of a transition, especially in the way we have traditionally viewed ourselves as a primarily LGBT community.**

We have a terrific opportunity to figure out what we want to be, and then to work together to become that.

**These days, everyone seems to feel that they are busy, busy, busy. There are countless articles in the media about this. The last issue of *Reform Judaism* featured a story entitled "Bondage to Busyness." So why would anyone consider getting involved in CSZ governance?**

It's not just about being involved in CSZ governance. It's about being involved in the life and community of CSZ. That's one of the many great things about this community. Each of us has the ability to shape and impact what happens in the shul.

FAMILY LAW

## PRACTICE AREAS

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Partner  
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Pension  
Distribution  
Alimony

Custody  
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Agreements  
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# Does Jewish Education Make “Good Jews”?



**IN A RECENT** article in the *J.*, guest columnist Melissa Cohen asked, “Do my children really need formal Jewish education to be good Jews?” She went on to say that, as long as her children had Judaism in the home and felt connected to their synagogue, forcing them to go to Hebrew school was just going to create a negative relationship to their Judaism. I strongly disagree that communal education has no value.

Jewish life is shifting. The way Jews live their Judaism has expanded, been reinvented and, in many ways, has become invigorated. There are innovative ideas and opportunities for Jewish people to express their Judaism in extraordinary ways, whether at Urban Adamah’s farm where agriculture is linked to Jewish practice, or watching the parsha of the week in an exciting animated drash as created by G-dcast. Change is the one consistent thread in Judaism. Every generation of Jews has reimagined Judaism to make it relevant to their generation.

I am not sure what it means to be a “good Jew.” I don’t know that the purpose of our school, Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer, is to create good Jews. I believe instead our program is designed to help students learn that there are many teachings in Judaism that help us to become good people. We learn in community, not just because the students will one day stand in front of the congregation and chant Torah, but because we want to make our covenantal relationship with God real for each generation.

It is so crucial for children to have a community of peers to look to for their value set. Yes, we as parents and teachers can influence and guide our young people to aspire to do works of tikkun olam (healing the world), but it is their peer group that will make that work meaningful and fun. We give our children Jewish educations so they become literate Jews, but also so that they start to form their own Jewish communities.

I recently asked Amira Lezin Haveson, a soon-to-be third grader, what makes attending Beit Sefer meaningful for her. This is what she said: “The school is very welcoming because I have teachers and friends there that I like. When you have a friend, then you aren’t so nervous to come to school and when there is a new person who comes to school, you have to be a good role model, sit near them and make them feel secure!”

What I understand is that she feels a part of a community that is attentive to her and that she also feels a responsibility to her classmates and teachers. That sounds like a pretty good Jew to me! The *J.* columnist implied that she has to drag her children to religious school. One of the elements that we pride ourselves on at Beit Sefer is that the children want to be there. They find it a joyous place to be because they feel welcome and accepted for who they are and I think fun and good snacks don’t hurt either.

So perhaps a more relevant question is: How do we create good Jewish education experiences so children want to learn about becoming good people through a Jewish lens?

This is a question that we ponder all the time at Beit Sefer. We explore how curriculum and community can enrich children’s

Jewish learning. We learn that each of us is created in the image of the Divine, with an infinite capacity to improve ourselves and the world around us. It is exciting to think about Jewish schools that students look back on for the positive experiences that help to shape them into the mensches they have become.

That is our hope and commitment at Beit Sefer.

## Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer Calendar

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 9/19  | <b>Shabbat Class and Parent Briefing</b><br><i>Begin Holiness Unit</i> |
| 9/26  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 10/3  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 10/4  | <b>Family Sukkot Celebration</b>                                       |
| 10/10 | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 10/17 | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 10/24 | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 10/31 | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 11/7  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 11/14 | <b>Shabbat Class – OPEN CLASSROOM</b>                                  |
| 11/21 | <b>Shabbat Class</b><br><i>Begin Jewish Journeys Unit</i>              |
| 11/28 | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 12/5  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 12/12 | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 12/19 | <b>Shabbat Class</b><br><i>Emma Kositsky Bat Mitzvah</i>               |
| 12/26 | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 1/2   | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 1/9   | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 1/16  | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 1/23  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 1/30  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 2/6   | <b>Shabbat Class – OPEN CLASSROOM</b>                                  |
| 2/13  | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 2/20  | <b>Shabbat Class</b><br><i>Begin People of the Book Unit</i>           |
| 2/27  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 3/5   | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 3/12  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 3/19  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 3/26  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 4/2   | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 4/9   | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 4/16  | <b>Shabbat Class</b>   |
| 4/23  | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 4/30  | <b>No Shabbat Class</b>  |
| 5/7   | <b>Shabbat Class</b><br><i>Sylvie Olson-Dorf Bat Mitzvah</i>           |
| 5/14  | <b>Shabbat Class – OPEN CLASSROOM</b><br><i>Last Day of School</i>     |



# A New Framework

BY KAREN SCHILLER

Last September, Sha'ar Zahav received a grant from the Walter & Elise Haas Fund to hire a consultant to help us think about our identity and how we want to present ourselves to the larger community (see the January/February 2015 *JGF* for more information). A committee comprised of Ruth Bernstein, Patty Caplan, Andrew Ramer, Daniel Sanson and I hired LightBox Collaborative, a consulting group, to help us with this process.

LightBox started the process by doing a communications audit. They looked at a year's worth of internal and external communications – the *JGF*, our weekly emails and other emails sent to congregants, flyers – and our website. We also sent them our strategic plan and the notes from the Listening Campaign that we did last fall, and notes from interviews that Andrew Ramer and I had done with rabbis and lay leaders at other LGBTQ congregations. LightBox spoke to other clergy and lay leaders at congregations that were founded as LGBTQ synagogues, spoke with Mark Dollinger, the chair of Jewish Studies at SF State, looked at studies about the Bay Area Jewish community, and did a survey of other Bay Area synagogues' websites. They then led two workshops – one for leadership and one for an invited group of congregants, who represented a cross-section of our community.

From all this work, LightBox produced an Identity Framework for Sha'ar Zahav. The Framework is an internal document that is meant to provide us with clarity and direction. Holly Minch, one of the LightBox consultants, described it as a mirror that reflects who we are. It consists of four elements: the promise we offer our congregants, our values, our personality and the position we fill in the Bay Area. It provides us with a strategic lens with which to prioritize programs, and it is a foundation from which we can shape the tone and content of external communications. It doesn't just describe who we are; it's aspirational and describes who we want to be. It isn't the end of the process; rather, it's the roadmap for moving forward.

The committee, now with the addition of Alex Ingersoll, is really excited about the framework and about how well LightBox understood us – and about how the framework has the potential to move us forward in a way nothing else has. The Va'ad also gave it a thumbs up, and it was discussed at the Leadership Advance in August. We are hoping to receive another grant from Haas in the fall to help us continue the work.

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## HHD Pledges 5775

Marianne Balin  
Michael Chertok  
Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz  
Milia Weber & Charles Fineberg

## General Fund

Julie Minoff for teacher appreciation.  
Alice Harron in honor of Ruth Bernstein's birthday.  
Sara Haber & Beth Souza in memory of Joy Saslafsky, Fred Hahn & David Nacamulli.  
Prudence Carter  
Marc Lipschutz in honor of Laura Lowe.  
Steve & Florence Nacamulli in honor of Regina Wurst.  
Avraham Giannini in honor of Alan Gordon for Saturday services.  
Laura Lowe  
Ami Zusman in honor of Rabbi Angel for 15 years of service & Regina Wurst for her many years of service to CSZ.  
Carey McIntosh in honor of Paul Cohen.

## Rainbow 2014

Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker  
Marianne Balin

## Rainbow 2015

Ray Bernstein in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Andrew Ramer in memory of Irmgard Baum.  
Tony Harris in honor of the Rainbow Committee, Martin Tannenbaum, Judith Wolfe & Andy Schwartz.  
Rose Katz  
Alan Michels & Laureen Kim  
Dana Vinicoff  
Scott Kramer  
Judith Wolfe  
Larry Wexler  
Marianne Balin  
Irene Ogus  
Laura Lowe  
Patty Caplan  
Lisa Katz  
Lillian Schaechner & Elaine Weissman  
Sara Haber & Beth Sousa  
Grossberg-Abrams Foundation/Tamara Abrams  
Arlene Singer & Barbara Leff  
Ray MacLachlan  
Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker  
Andy Fyne  
Kendra Froshman

## The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Events Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in honor of Evan Arnold-Gordon graduating from the University of Oregon.

Jonathan Funk, John Arnold & Evan Arnold-Gordon in memory of Rabbi Julius Funk.  
Jonathan Funk in honor of Regina Wurst.  
Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in memory of Alan Harap.

## Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Alfred & Debora Klein in honor of Asa DiGirolamo's bar mitzvah.  
Carey McIntosh in honor of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Avraham Giannini in memory of Georgette Beainy.  
Martin Tannenbaum & Alex Ingersoll in honor of Rabbi Riter.

## Bookplates

Allan Berenstein in memory of his grandmothers, Perel Berenstein and Sadie Radetsky.  
Laura Lowe in honor of Andrew Ramer, Patty Caplan, Ann Bauman, Ron Lezell & Beth Ross.

# Va'ad Notes

## BY MARC LIPSCHUTZ, RECORDER

At the July 15, 2015 Va'ad meeting, we:

- Signed a Covenant of Leadership, with each of us individually committing to thirteen obligations and responsibilities to the congregation.
- Proposed objectives for the 2015-2016 year, including:
  - Refining and communicating our identity
  - Creating a sustainable financial model and Building Reserve fund
  - Welcoming, engaging, and partnering with thirty new member families and bringing back former members
  - Implementing a structure of support and caring for all members
  - Attracting Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer families to Friday evening and Saturday morning services
  - Creating new programming and related partnerships
  - Reimagining the role of the clergy

- Reactivating our Social Action Committee
  - Creating a new image of CSZ in the community
- Key objectives will be ratified during our August meeting.
- Committed to building a community of caring, reinvigorating our Bikkur Cholim efforts through the guidance of the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center and Helping Hands initiative.
  - Refined our 2015 Leadership Advance goals of fine-tuning and communicating our identity framework, building a long-term, sustainable financial model, and integrating BSPM families with Kabbalat and Shacharit Shabbat service participants.
  - Reviewed our financial statement, including extraordinary individual giving at 50% above expectations, due to our very generous members' contributions to the Rainbow Campaign.

All members are invited to attend Va'ad meetings which occur on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.



**June 5-6**

Flowers and oneg sponsored by Eileen Lynette in memory of her parents, Abi and Rosalie Lynette.

**June 12-13**

Flowers sponsored by Don Fischer in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Oneg sponsored by the Sha'ar Zahav Past Presidents in honor of Rabbi Angel.

**June 19-20**

Oneg sponsored by Elliott Sprehn in honor of Rachel Nancollas' welcoming into the covenant.

**June 26-27**

Flowers sponsored by Paul Peninger in memory of his father John Ross.

Oneg sponsored by Lynn Eden and Ruth Schoenbach in honor of Rabbi Angel.

**July 10-11**

Orchid donated by Yo Schneeman, in honor of our founder Daniel Chesir.

**July 17-18**

Oneg sponsored by Allan Berenstein in honor of Rabbi Ted Riter and the new Va'ad.

**July 24-25**

Oneg sponsored by the CSZ Va'ad.



Sha'ar Zahavniks at the AIDS Memorial Grove on Jewish work day.



## Condolences

To Nancy Levin on the loss of her  
uncle, Howard Reuben.

To Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver on the  
loss of their friend, Duane Aten.

To Larry Wexler on the loss of his  
friend Toby Berger.

## New Members

Den Bremond and Paloma

## Congratulations to:

Greg and Rachel Lawrence (Greg used  
to be our Clergy Assistant), who wel-  
comed their daughter, Hazel Glow, into  
the world on July 9th.

## Member Yahrzeits

### September

- 1 John Golebowski
- 3 Lee Gierson
- 5 Frances Pechter
- 6 Inbal Kashtan
- 6 Elliot Klein
- 11 Daniel McGoldrick
- 12 Arnie Jackson
- 15 David Pierce
- 18 Penny Dachinger
- 20 Edward Wolberg
- 25 Jeffrey Lewis Cohen

### October

- 2 William Korthof
- 3 Rabbi Benjamin Marcus
- 6 Jeffrey Miller
- 8 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 12 Andrew Zysman
- 13 Harry Clint Bigglestone
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 24 Glenn Murray Miller
- 29 Michael Mohr

### Hills of Eternity Memorial Park

### Home of Peace Cemetery

### Salem Memorial Park

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## Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Interim Rabbi Ted Riter

Cantor Sharon Bernstein



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# Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's High Holy Day Services 5776

All services, unless otherwise noted,  
will be held at

**San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center**  
2850 19th Avenue (at Sloat), San Francisco

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday, September 5</b>   | Selichot, 9:00 pm @ CSZ  |
| <b>Sunday, September 13</b>    | Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7:30 pm  |
| <b>Monday, September 14</b>    | Rosh Hashanah, 9:30 am<br>Children's (Pre-Readers), 10:30 am<br>Children's (Readers), 11:30 am<br>Tashlich Picnic, 2:00 pm @ Crissy Field<br>Tashlich Services, 3:00 pm @ Crissy Field |
| <b>Tuesday, September 15</b>   | Rosh Hashanah, 9:30 am @ CSZ   |
| <b>Sunday, September 20</b>    | Kever Avot v'Imahot, 10:00 am<br>@ Hills of Eternity   |
| <b>Tuesday, September 22</b>   | Kol Nidre, 7:30 pm   |
| <b>Wednesday, September 23</b> | Yom Kippur, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm<br>(services & study sessions)<br>Children's (Pre-Readers), 10:30 am<br>Children's (Readers), 11:30 am<br>Yizkor & Neilah, 5:30 pm                       |
| <b>Starting September 27</b>   | Sukkot – watch your email for dates,<br>times and places   |
| <b>Sunday, October 4</b>       | Simchat Torah, 7:00 pm @ CSZ   |
| <b>Monday, October 5</b>       | Yizkor, 10:00 am @ CSZ   |